

Amendments to the Claims

1 – 46. (canceled)

47. (presently amended) A method for determining whether an agent modulates a Mdm2-herpesvirus-associated ubiquitin-specific protease (HAUSP) interaction, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining or generating an *in vitro* system comprising Mdm2 and HAUSP;

(b) contacting the *in vitro* system with a candidate agent; and

(c) determining whether the candidate agent increases or decreases a level of Mdm2-HAUSP protein complex interaction in the *in vitro* system,

wherein determination of an increase or decrease the level of Mdm2-HAUSP protein complex interaction in (c) indicates that the agent modulates Mdm2-HAUSP interaction.

48. (presently amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the determining in step (c) comprises comparing the level of Mdm2-herpesvirus-associated ubiquitin-specific protease (HAUSP) protein complex interaction in the *in vitro* system of step (b) with a level of Mdm2-HAUSP protein complex interaction in a second *in vitro* system comprising Mdm2 and HAUSP in the absence of the candidate agent, wherein determination of an increase or decrease of the level of Mdm2-HAUSP protein complex interaction in the *in vitro* system of step (b) compared to the second *in vitro* system indicates that the agent modulates Mdm2-HAUSP interaction.

49 – 53. (canceled)

54. (presently amended) A method for determining whether an agent is reactive with Mdm2, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a candidate agent with Mdm2, in the presence of herpesvirus-associated ubiquitin-specific protease (HAUSP); and